

New policy for poverty alleviation

†2503. SHRI MAHENDRA SAHNI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to formulate a new policy for poverty alleviation programme in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (c) No proposals have been received from the concerned Ministries for a new policy for poverty alleviation programme in the country. New proposals will be considered in the Eleventh Five Year Plan, which has not been prepared.

Definition of poverty line

†2504. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the procedure for the assessment of the persons living below poverty line and definition of poverty line; and

(b) the total number of persons living below poverty line in the country during the year 2001 and number thereof in the year 2005?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) The procedure for the assessment of the persons living below poverty line adopted by the Planning Commission is based on the methodology contained in the Report of the Expert Group on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor. Using this methodology, the State-wise percentage of population living below poverty line is estimated from the state-specific consumption distribution obtained from the large sample Survey on household consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) and the state-specific poverty lines. Then the number of persons living below the poverty line is estimated from the State-wise population projections made by the Office of the Registrar General and the percentage of population living below poverty line.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.